TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 15, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 10 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 2.9 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 32 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 549.6 billion ton-miles, down 3.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 10 totaled 377,306, down 6.3 percent from last year, and 0.8 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.0 percent in the East, 8.4 percent in the South and 4.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment increased by 1,247 cars (7.6 percent). Loadings of metallic ores were down 3,551 cars (20.4 percent) and grain loadings were off 6,758 cars (24.7 percent). Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 3 totaled 88,333 trailers and/or containers, 0.5 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 31 weeks of the year was 2,623,021 trailers and/or containers, down 2.9 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/10/85:

	Loadings in Week ended August 10, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,592	D	6,758	24.7	D	190	0.9
Other farm products	2,659	I	107	4.2	D	159	5.6
Metallic ores	13,890	D	3,551	20.4	I	862	6.6
Coal	120,995	D	9,812	7.5	D	921	0.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,187	I	384	3.0	I	135	1.0
Nonmetallic minerals	11,133	D	1,338	10.7	I	1,610	16.9
Grain mill products	10,047	D	202	2.0	D	159	1.6
Food and kindred products	10,847	I	356	3.4	D	489	4.3
Primary forest products	10,174	D	3,305	24.5	D	673	6.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,794	D	219	3.1	D	803	10.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,020	D	1,463	10.1	D	777	5.6
Chemicals and allied products	22,352	D	1,153	4.9	D	726	3.1
Petroleum products	4,609	D	19	0.4	D	131	2.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,068	I	179	1.6	I	454	4.3
Coke	4,765	D	401	7.8	D	62	1.3
Metals and products	8,260	I	343	4.3	D	800	8.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,738	I	1,247	7.6	I	170	1.0
Waste and scrap materials	8,383	D	218	2.5	I	113	1.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,893	D	497	6.7	D	62	0.9
All other carloads	59,747	I	1,053	1.8	D	499	0.8
LCL traffic	153	I	32	26.4	D	9	5.6
Total Cars Loaded	377,306	D	25,235	6.3	D	3,116	0.8
Corresponding week of 1984	402,541						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (32 weeks)	11,915,688	12,607,892	D 5.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
31 Weeks ended August 3	532.2	552.6	D 3.7
Week ended August 10	17.4	17.9	D 2.9
32 weeks cumulative	549.6	570.5	D 3.7

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